

Signal Soldiers return from training at Fort Polk

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Forty-four Soldiers from Company B, 57th Signal Battalion, returned from the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., in late February after 30 days of providing communications support to a unit from the Minnesota Army National Guard.

The mission of the signal unit was to integrate its Mobile Subscriber Equipment with the Army's newest signal technology, the Joint Network Node, for the first time in a historic simulated combat train-

ing experience. The JNN systems is replacing the older MSE systems to give Soldiers more mobile communications with increased bandwidth.

"Most of the tasks we trained on were signal-related," said 2nd Lt. Lauren Herwig, a platoon leader with Co. B. "Our main mission was to integrate our MSE with 1/34 BCT's JNN, a first for both units. Everyone involved, including my platoon, the JNN platoon, the BCT's S-6 team, and several civilian contractors worked twenty-four-seven throughout the rotation to get the equipment up and running."

As Army communications move more toward

the digital age, the demand for voice over Internet protocol, or VoIP, has increased dramatically along with the need to send and receive digital information over tactical signal communications systems. The new systems serve as a transition piece while the Army transforms the way it talks to the future tactical network War-fighter Information Network-Tactical, or WIN-T.

Working together, the two units were able to provide communications for the entire National Guard brigade, as well as cutting-edge, hands-on training for each other.